

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-19 SS-20 NSC-07 EB-11 OMB-01 DRC-01

/085 W

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R 221630Z MR 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4760

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

USNMR SHAPE

USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

S E C R E T USNATO 1583

E.O. 11652: GDS-12/31/82

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: MARCH 21 DTC EXAMINATION OF NATO FORCE PROPOSALS/GOALS -
ITALY

REF: (A) STATE 056459 NOTAL; (B) MCM-14-74

BEGIN SUMMARY: DRC ON MARCH 21 ADDRESSED NATO MILITARY
AUTHORITIES' (NMA'S) 1975-1980 FORCE PROPOSALS FOR ITALY.
ITALIAN REPS CITED UTILITY TO MOD OF ACCEPTING ALL FORCE
PROPOSALS AND MOD'S INABILITY TO FORECAST CONTENTS OF
NATIONAL PLANS MORE THAN YEAR IN ADVANCE. U.S. REP CONTESTED
ITALIAN POSITION BY RECALLING DRC RESPONSIBILITIES TO
CONSIDER ECONOMIC FACTORS IN DEVELOPING REALISTIC DRAFT FORCE
GOALS. DRC WITH ITALIAN COOPERATION, SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED NMA'S
FORCE PROPOSALS. DRC AGAIN POSTPONED DISCUSSION OF U.S. APPROACH TO
FORCE PROPOSALS/FORCE GOALS. END SUMMARY.

1. DRC ON MARCH 21 DISCUSSED NMA'S 1975-1980 FORCE PROPOSALS
FOR ITALY. DRC CHAIRMAN (HUMPHREYS) CHARACTERIZED FORCE
PROPOSALS AS OVER-AMBITIOUS AND SUGGESTED DRC CONSIDER
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AD-70 AND BASIC ISSUES WHEN PARING DOWN PROPOSALS TO A
REASONABLE CHALLENGE.

2. ITALIAN REP (ADM MACHIAVELLI) CITED BENEFIT TO MOD OF

ACCEPTING ALL PROPOSALS (EVEN THOSE WITH SCANT CHANCE OF IMPLEMENTATION) IN ORDER TO PORTRAY, PARTICULARLY TO A NEW GOVERNMENT, THE MAGNITUDE OF THE GAP BETWEEN CURRENT EFFORTS AND "MILITARY REQUIREMENTS." HE CITED ITALY'S INABILITY TO FORECAST CONTENTS OF COUNTRY PLANS MORE THAN A YEAR IN ADVANCE AND ARGUED AGAINST DRC ATTEMPTING TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN THOSE PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN COUNTRY PLANS AND THOSE WHICH WERE NOT. HE URGED DRC NOT TO AMEND FORCE PROPOSALS BUT TO RETAIN THEM IN THEIR "GLOBAL" FORM.

3. U.S. REP (CLINARD) CONTESTED ITALIAN APPROACH TO FORCE PROPOSALS/FORCE GOALS. HE CITED NEED FOR DRC TO EXERCISE ITS DUTIES TO TAKE FULLY INTO ACCOUNT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS IN TRANSLATING FORCE PROPOSALS INTO DRAFT FORCE GOALS WHICH REPRESENT A REEASONABLE CHALLENGE. HUMPHREYS CONCURRED AND ITALIANS AGREED TO DRC REVIEW OF INDIVIDUAL FORCE PROPOSALS, DURING WHICH U.S. REP DREW FROM REFTEL (A), WHICH MISSION RECEIVED MORNING OF MEETING.

4. DRC TOOK FOLLOWING ACTION ON U.S. PRIORITY PROPOSALS (PROPOSALS NOT MENTIONED WERE APPROVED EITHER IN ORIGIANL FORM OR IN SUBSTANCE):

A. 1L02 - DRC CALLED FOR ITALY TO ACHIEVE STOCK LEVEL OF 15 DAYS BY 1978 AND OF 30 DAYS ASAP THEREAFTER.

B. 1L05 - CONTINUE (VICE COMPLETE) REPLACEMENT OF M-47 TANKS. TARGET DATE OF 1980 DROPPED.

C. 1L15 AND 1L16 - EXAMINE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION, OR PROCUREMENT OF EW WARNING CAPABILITIES.

D. 1M08 - BY END-1978 COMMENCE PROCUREMENT OF MODERN MPA.

E. 1M09 - ACHIEVE STOCK LEVEL OF 15 DAYS BY 1978 AND OF 30 DAYS ASAP THEREAFTER.
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F. 1M19 - DEVELOP PLANS FOR THE PROGRESSIVE IMPROVEMENT OF AIR, SURFACE, AND SUB-SURFACE DEFENCE OF ALL MARITIME BASES.

G. 1M20 - DRC DELETED PROPOSAL TO MODERNIZE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE.

H. 1A04C AND D - INVESTIGATE FEASIBILITY OF EQUIPPING TACTICAL AIRCRAFT WITH EW EQUIPMENT.

I. 1A05 - INCREASE WRS OF CRITICAL ITEMS TO A MINIMUM OF 15 COMBAT DAYS BY 1977 AND 30 DAYS BY 1980.

J. 1A07 - PROVIDE SHORAD FOR 10 BASES AND INITIATE

PLANS FOR REMAINING 9 BASES.

K. 1A08A - PROCURE SYSTEMS AND BOMBS FOR 2 SQUADRONS
BY 1976 AND FOR A THIRD SQUADRON ASAP THEREAFTER.

L. 1A20C - DRC DELETED PROPOSAL FOR DRONES.

M. 1A27 - DRC REVISED TO CALL FOR CONSIDERATION OF
SHELTER UTILITY FOR REMAINING 30 PERCENT OF ASSIGNED
AIRCRAFT.

5. IN ADDITION TO ABOVE ACTION, DRC DELETED IN ENTIRETY
1L19, 1M02B, 1M18, 1A14 AND 1A156B AND SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED
1L06, 1M03, 1M11, 1M13, 1M14B, 1A02C, 1A08D AND 1A10A AND B.

6. AT END OF MEETING, CHAIRMAN SAID DRC HAD MADE "ORDER
OF MAGNITUDE" REDUCTIONS OF OVER 3,000 MILLION LIRE (FROM
7,200 MILLION LIRE WHICH IS ESTIMATED AS ADDITIONAL FUNDS
REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT COSTED FORCE PROPOSALS). CHAIRMAN
BELIEVED RESULTS REPRESENTED A MORE REASONABLE CHALLENGE
FOR ITALY.

7. DRC ON MARCH 26 WILL ADDRESS TURKISH FORCE PROPOSALS/
FORCE GOALS AND DISCUSS U.S. APPROACH TO OVERALL UNDERTAKING. DRC
IS STILL SCHEDULED TO REVIEW NETHERLANDS AND U.S. FORCE
PROPOSALS/FORCE GOALS ON MARCH 28. DRC WILL ADDRESS CANADA
MARCH 27 AND GREECE AND PORTUGAL APRIL 2.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 11 JUN 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NATO001583
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS-12/31/82
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740381/abbrytxb.tel
Line Count: 142
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) STATE 056459 NOTAL; (B) MCM-14-74
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 APR 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <30-Aug-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MARCH 21 DTC EXAMINATION OF NATO FORCE PROPOSALS/GOALS - ITALY
TAGS: MCAP, NATO
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO ROME
USNMR SHAPE
USLOSACLANT
CINCLANT
USCINCEUR
USDOCOSOUTH

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005